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BULLETIN OF THE
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
VOLUME XVII, NUMBER I

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

THE fifty-second annual meeting of the Members of the Corporation of The Metropolitan Museum of Art will be held in the Board Room, Monday afternoon, January 16, at 4 o'clock.

A report of the transactions for the year 1921 will be presented and addresses will be made by the President, Robert W. de Forest, and others.

Afterward tea will be served.

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

THE year 1921 created a new record in the attendance at the Museum, which exceeded the highest mark reached hitherto, that in 1909, the year of the famous Hudson-Fulton Exhibition, by 136,022.

The attendance in 1921, totaling 1,073,905, is due to no special exhibition, no unusual event. On the other hand, it is an unmistakable evidence that during normal times museum visiting is coming to have a valued place in the lives of many people, who recognize its power for enjoyment, satisfaction, rest, as well as for educational opportunity and practical use.

CONCERTS AND PROGRAM LECTURES

IN connection with the four concerts now being given at the Museum, through the generosity of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., on the Saturday evenings in January at 8 o'clock by a symphony orchestra conducted by David Mannes, Miss Frances Morris, Assistant Curator in the Department of Decorative Arts, will give a series of free lectures in the Museum Lecture Hall at 5 o'clock on the same days, January 7, 14, 21, and 28, on the Orchestra, with special reference to the programs of the evening. She will be assisted by Miss Alice Nichol, at the piano.

A LECTURE BY JOSEF STRZYGOWSKI

THE Museum takes pleasure in announcing that an illustrated lecture will be given at 4:15 P. M. on January 26 in the Lecture Hall by Josef Strzygowski, Professor of the History of Art in the University of Vienna. The subject will be The Origin of Early Christian Church Art. The lecture will be given in English and will be free to the public without tickets.

Professor Strzygowski, although hitherto unknown as a speaker in America, is well known as a writer on art and archaeology. The son of a wealthy manufacturer in what is now Poland, he early sacrificed a business career for a scholarly one, attending the universities of Vienna, Berlin, and Munich, and traveling extensively in Italy and the Near East.

Beginning with his doctor's dissertation in 1885, a study of the iconography of the baptism of Christ, he has published a long series of valuable studies. His *Orient oder*

Rom, issued in 1901, remains today the work by which he is best known in America, partly because of its suggestive title and partly because it first represented the methods and material of modern Russian scholarship. His chief contributions, however, have been made in his later publications, devoted either to a province, such as Asia Minor, or to a single locality or monument, such as Amida or Mshatta, or to a collection, such as the Coptic section of the Cairo Museum. The series reaches its climax in the recent work on the architecture of Armenia. All these publications owe their importance to the fact that they are pioneer investigations in a new field. They have led to a new theory, that the development of our western art has been conditioned in its various stages by different influences from the East. They have led also to a new method of study comparative and systematic, to the elaboration of which Professor Strzygowski is now giving his attention.

Recognition of his scholarship has come to Professor Strzygowski in unstinted measure. He has frequently been invited to give courses of lectures in Europe, for example, in Russia, Finland, Sweden, and England. He was decorated by the former imperial Austrian government with the honorary title of aulic councilor, Hofrat, and has received various other honors abroad.

THE CONVERSE BEQUEST

EDMUND C. CONVERSE, of Greenwich, Conn., who died last April, generously bequeathed to the Museum his Van Dyck portrait of Mademoiselle de Gottignies, and also his interesting collection of Chinese, Persian, Japanese, and Italian ceramics, jades, and other hard stones. The bequest of the collection was subject to certain conditions, one of which was

that the objects in it should be "suitably segregated." Should the Museum not be willing to accept the whole collection upon the terms specified in his will, he provided that it should be allowed to take such part as it might desire on the same terms, if his executors should consider the part thus selected of sufficient importance to warrant the use of his name as a collector thereof.

As the Trustees of the Museum deemed it inexpedient to accept the entire collection subject to the condition of segregation, an agreement has been arrived at between them and the executors of the estate, by which the Museum receives about 450 specimens of Chinese ceramics, jades, and other hard stones, including 253 exquisite snuff bottles, as Mr. Converse's bequest, and undertakes to exhibit these in separate cases bearing his name, which are to be distributed among the galleries of our Far Eastern Department in which they belong chronologically, a few pieces that are too large for cases to be otherwise set apart.

The collection as thus offered and accepted has been recently delivered to the Museum and will be placed on exhibition as soon as the necessary preliminaries of registration and preparation have been completed, when an account of it will be published in the BULLETIN. The Van Dyck portrait has also been received and will soon be hung in one of the picture galleries.

THE THAYER MEMORIAL EXHIBITION

AS announced immediately after the death of Abbott H. Thayer on May 29, 1921, the Museum will hold a memorial exhibition of the work of this artist, so noteworthy for its classic dignity and largeness of vision. According to present arrangements, this exhibition will open on March 20 and continue through April 30.